

News Release

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City Provides Research Grant to CBU for Energy Innovation Project

Riverside, Calif. – The City of Riverside recently approved a \$100,000 grant to California Baptist University (CBU) that will help fund the first phase of a three-phase study on new and existing solar power air conditioning systems.

The Energy Innovations Grant (EIG) is made possible through Riverside Public Utilities' (RPU) public benefits funds. The EIG program was developed for the funding of research, development, and demonstration programs for the public interest to advance science or technology in electric-related projects in the higher education institutions located within the City of Riverside.

Dr. Ziliang Zhou, associate professor of mechanical engineering at CBU, has been named one of the principal investigators for the EIG project. Zhou said the initial phase of the project "will build apparatus to conduct tests on new and existing solar powered air conditioning systems and evaluate each for commercial and residential usage."

Additional phases of the study will involve building a working prototype system, then refining the component to achieve optimal performance in potential applications.

"Through this partnership, RPU and CBU will work together to increase the awareness of new and exciting renewable energy technologies that can benefit not only the City of Riverside, but the world," said the city's Sustainability Officer Michael Bacich.

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Established in 1895, Riverside Public Utilities is a consumer-owned water and electric utility governed by a board of nine community volunteers that provides high quality, reliable services to over 106,000 metered electric customers and 64,000 metered water customers throughout the City of Riverside. The Utility is committed to increased use of renewable energy resources and sustainable living practices that help reduce environmental impacts within the City of Riverside and the state of California.

www.RiversidePublicUtilities.com

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